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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

VOL. XIV. WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 29, 1899. NO. 39.

UNITED STATES.

The introduction of yellow fever into Key West.

In view of the allegations published in several newspapers, purporting to have emanated from official authorities of Florida, to the effect that the present epidemic of yellow fever in Key West is due to the "negligent inspection service of the Marine-Hospital Service," at Havana, and no disavowal by said authorities having been received or noted in the press, the Bureau deems it necessary to state that it knows of no evidence or facts which justify such assertions. The alleged facts and intimations, so far as known, have been thoroughly investigated and found to be without foundation.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Yellow fever in Key West, Fla., and other places.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

FLORIDA.

Key West.—Assistant Surgeon McAdam reports as follows:

September 22, 38 cases, 5 deaths; September 23, 40 cases, 3 deaths; September 24, 30 cases, 2 deaths; September 25, 26 cases. Two physicians not heard from. September 26, 47 new cases, 2 deaths; September 27, 26 new cases, 1 death. Ten passengers sent from Tortugas to Tampa to-night. September 28, 39 cases, 1 death.

Miami.—September 22: Passed Assistant Surgeon Stimpson reports another case of yellow fever at Miami.

September 25: Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf is ordered to Miami to report to Passed Assistant Surgeon Stimpson.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Stimpson reports:

Horsey has decided that patient is ill with yellow fever. Diagnosis has been complicated by patient having drunk a quantity of rum, and the presence of dengue. He was taken sick on morning of the 20th. * * * Guards placed around hotel [where patient is sick] 24th. Suspects isolated in another portion of the building. Porter can not come; he has telegraphed Burgess in Jacksonville to come.

The State health officer of Florida reports as follows:

Assistant State Health Officer Horsey declares case at Miami yellow fever. All precautions taken.

September 26: The State health officer of Florida reports:

Have instructed that suspect at Miami, with all in building, be moved to steamer *Santa Lucia*, which is the disinfecting plant, to thoroughly disinfect premises and have daily house inspection for ten days. This is all I deem necessary or demanded at this time.

September 26: On account of the number of cases of dengue at Miami—225 from July 18 to September 26—the following telegram is sent the State health officer of Florida:

I suggest that at Miami action be taken to prevent the spread of dengue. This can be inaugurated now with the house-to-house inspection that you have ordered. Dengue patients to be isolated and effort made to prevent their infecting their rooms by removal of all textiles daily and exposure to sun for twelve hours—each patient having one set of bedding and personal wear in use and another in the sun. Failing sunlight, disinfect. Rooms also to be sunned and aired thoroughly. This method, as you know, was successfully used by Dr. Loeber, Touro Infirmary, 1897, with actual yellow fever and by Dr. Vickery, National Soldiers' Home, this summer with cases of supposed dengue. Have ordered Von Ezdorf, who is an immune, to assist Stimpson, Miami, Stimpson cooperating with your health officer.

September 28: Von Ezdorf arrives.

Detention Camp, Tortugas.—September 21: Passed Assistant Surgeon Smith reports 9 refugees received to-day.

September 23: Passed Assistant Surgeon Smith reports for the week as follows:

Refugees received, 18; released, 32; remaining, 31. September 27, 22 refugees received from Key West yesterday, and 13 released to-day.

Port Tampa City.—September 23: Assistant Surgeon Trotter reports that quarantine against Port Tampa and Port Tampa City was raised on the evening of the 22d.

September 25: Assistant Surgeon Trotter at Port Tampa City, Fla., reports as follows:

Quarantine officer, Mullet Key, reports captain of schooner detained in quarantine, from Key West Quarantine; has some symptoms of yellow fever, but diagnosis is not certain.

LOUISIANA.

New Orleans.—Official reports from New Orleans are as follows:

September 20, 2 new cases; September 21, 3 new cases, 2 deaths; September 23, 1 new case. Total cases to date, 18; total deaths to date, 7.

Surgeon Carter reports as follows:

September 22, no new cases, 2 deaths; September 25, 3 new cases, 1 death since Saturday.

September 26, 2 new cases. He goes to Memphis to-night, thence to Meridian for train inspection, and advises that McMullen attend the Memphis end of it; September 27, official reports, 2 new cases; September 28, 2 new cases.

Yellow fever in the United States as reported to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service from August 31 to September 29, 1899.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.
Florida:			
Key West	Aug. 31	6	.....
	Aug. 31–Sept. 4	28	3
	Aug. 31–Sept. 5	50	6
	Sept. 6	14	.....
	Aug. 31–Sept. 8	96	8
	Sept. 9	31	2
	Sept. 10	23	1
	Sept. 11	12	.....
	Sept. 12	29	1
	Sept. 13	35	0
	Sept. 14	15	1
	Sept. 15	30	1
	Sept. 16	38	1
	Sept. 17–Sept. 18	54	2
	Sept. 19	31	1
	Sept. 21	45	2
	Sept. 22	38	5
	Sept. 23	40	3
	Sept. 24	30	2
	Sept. 25	26	.....
	Sept. 26	47	2
	Sept. 27	26	1
	Sept. 28	39	1
Miami	Sept. 5–Sept. 22	2	1
Port Tampa City	Sept. 10	1	1
Louisiana:			
New Orleans	Aug. 27–Sept. 19	12	2
	Sept. 20	2	.....
	Sept. 21	3	2
	Sept. 22	0	2
	Sept. 23	1	.....
	Sept. 25	3	1
	Sept. 26	2	.....
	Sept. 27	2	.....
	Sept. 28	2	.....
Mississippi:			
Jackson	Sept. 10	1	.....
Mississippi City	Sept. 1	1	1
	Sept. 14	4	.....

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, Tex., September 17: I have the honor to report that during the week ended September 16, 1899, there arrived on the Mexican Central Railroad 1 passenger from Cuba via Vera Cruz without certificate and mark of disinfection on his baggage. Having positive evidence that he passed through the city eight days before his arrival here, I detained him two days and disinfected his baggage.